

House Republican Press Release

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**Rep. Farr Urges Legislative Panel to Probe Apparent Favoritism in  
Disposition of Dem Election Law Violations**



*Calls on Government Administration and Elections  
Committee Co-Chairs to Initiate Investigation*

The co-chairmen of the General Assembly's Government Administration and Elections Committee (GAE) should initiate an investigation into the way Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz implements state election laws in the wake of a finding by the state Elections Enforcement Commission that she illegally ordered two Democrat state House candidates' names placed on the ballot for the November election, state Representative Bob Farr said today.

The Elections Enforcement Commission, in a ruling announced Wednesday, found that Bysiewicz illegally placed the names of two Democrat state house candidates on the ballot for the November 7<sup>th</sup> election. The decision came in response to a complaint filed with the commission by Representative Farr, R-19<sup>th</sup> District, a member of the GAE committee, and House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward, R-86<sup>th</sup> District.

The complaint alleged that Bysiewicz, acting on the advice of state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, "illegally placed the names of four Democratic House candidates on the ballot for the November elections," Representative Farr said in a letter to state Senator Donald J. DeFronzo, D-6<sup>th</sup> District, and state Representative Christopher L. Caruso, D-126<sup>th</sup> District, the co-chairs of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, requesting the investigation.

The commission found that Bysiewicz should not have placed the names of two of the candidates (state representatives Mary M. Mushinsky, D-85<sup>th</sup> District, and Claire L. Janowski, D-56<sup>th</sup> District) on the ballot because they missed the deadline for filing their certificates of endorsement with the Secretary of the State's Office.

The commission noted that paperwork for the other two Democrat candidates sat unopened in Bysiewicz's office for 38 days and "concluded that the names of [those] candidates were properly placed on the ballot," Representative Farr said in his letter to DeFronzo and Caruso.

"I'm sure you will agree with me that these events are troubling, to say the least. Therefore, as a member of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, I urge the committee to commence an investigation into the practices of the Secretary of the State in implementing the election law," Representative Farr wrote.

In 2004, state Representative DebraLee Hovey, R-112<sup>th</sup> District, filed her certificate with her town on time but failed to file with the state. Her appeal to Bysiewicz was rejected out of hand and Republicans had to go to court to get her on the ballot.

“When Susan Bysiewicz bends over backwards to accommodate two Democrat state House candidates who failed to file their certificates of endorsement on time and forces a Republican state House candidate whose filing error was almost identical to go to court to get her name placed on the ballot, it’s clear to me that Ms. Bysiewicz is not averse to playing favorites when members of her own party fail to play by the rules,” Representative Farr said.

“I would suggest that the [GAE] committee call both Secretary Bysiewicz and Attorney General Blumenthal to testify about how they determined that the names of the Democratic candidates from the 56<sup>th</sup> and 85<sup>th</sup> districts should be placed on the ballot, how they distinguished this case from the Hovey case, and why important election documents remained unopened in the Secretary’s office for 38 days,” Representative Farr said. “The committee may also wish to determine why the Secretary sought advice from the Attorney General instead of the Elections Enforcement Commission, which is charged with enforcing the state’s election laws.”